Banning Endo-Sulfin A Poisonous Pesticide

1966. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether, within days of spraying Endo-sulfin, a pesticide, in Kasargod in Kerala, to protect the plantations from tea mosquitoes, even the small birds and flies were found dead and in Padri village, about 100 out of 2000 villagers were either dead/congenially deformed;

(b) whether, at the time of spraying, a notice, warning villagers to cover all sources of water, had been given, if so, what about two rivers which are the main source of drinking water; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not banning the use of such poisonous pesticide in India when its use is banned in most developing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) As reported by Government of Kerala, Enmakaje Grama Panchayat in Kasargode District of Kerala and some NGOs have represented to the State Government that the incidence of diseases like cancer, epilepsy and congenital diseases is high in the area around Padrae village around Emkaje Grama Panchayat and that this is attributable to the spraying of Endosulfan in the Cashew Plantations of M/s. Plantation Corporation of Kerala Limited, a public sector undertaking.

(b) It has also been reported by Government of Kerala that prior to the actual spraying of Endosulfan by M/s. Plantation Corporation of Kerala Ltd., notices are given to villagers to cover all sources of water. The rivers are not polluted because spraying is not done in the vicinity of rivers.

(c) Endosulfan has been reviewed for its continued use or otherwise in the country twice in 1991 and 1999 by the Expert Committees. Both these Committees have recommended the continued use of Endosulfan in the country. However, the State Government of Kerala has suspended the use of Endosulfan in crop/ plantation until further orders.

Central Team's Report on Floods in Andhra Pradesh

1967. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Team for assessment of damages due to heavy rains and floods in Andhra Pradesh, has submitted its report to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of the report; and

(c) by when the expected funds are to be released to Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Central Team has submitted its report and it is under consideration.

Review of Crop Insurance Policy

1968. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 610, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd November, 2001 and state :

(a) by when, the Crop Insurance Policy is expected to be reviewed;

(b) whether Government are aware that farmers are not getting any relief, if crops failure is in lesser villages in a unit of large area; and

(c) whether Government are considering to take one village as a single unit, in place of existing whole mandal or two mandals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) :

(a) As per provision, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) is required to be reviewed and the process for reviewing the scheme has already been initiated.

(b) and (c) NAIS is an area based scheme. The scheme is implemented on a defined area of insurance *i.e.* talukas, block, Mandal, circle, phirka, gram panchayat etc. The insurance claims are paid when actual average yield of the insured crop in the notified unit area falls short of the specified threshold yield. The number of farmers benefited under the scheme till date are 3925873. In order to make more realistic assessment of crop loss, scheme provides for reducing the unit area of insurance to gram panchayat level within a period of three years of its implementation.